

Expand Access to Biomarker Testing

Support Senate Bill 120, which would expand access to biomarker testing by requiring both public and private insurers to provide coverage.

- Biomarker testing is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker.
- For patients, biomarker testing can be life-changing. It opens the door to personalized medicine—treatments designed to target the unique characteristics of a patient's disease. This approach can mean fewer side effects, better health outcomes, a higher quality of life, and reduced costs.
- Insurance coverage for biomarker testing is falling behind medical progress. A 2022 analysis showed that 23% of Delawareans have plans that are more restrictive than the National Comprehensive Cancer Network—or NCCN—guidelines for testing in advanced cancers like breast, lung, melanoma, and prostate. Since 9 out of 10 providers rely on NCCN guidelines, this means some patients who should qualify for testing are being left out.
- While most current applications are in cancer, biomarker testing is increasingly important to the treatment of other diseases including arthritis, other autoimmune conditions, and rare diseases. There is research happening in many other areas including ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and more.

EXPAND ACCESS TO BIOMARKER TESTING IN DELAWARE

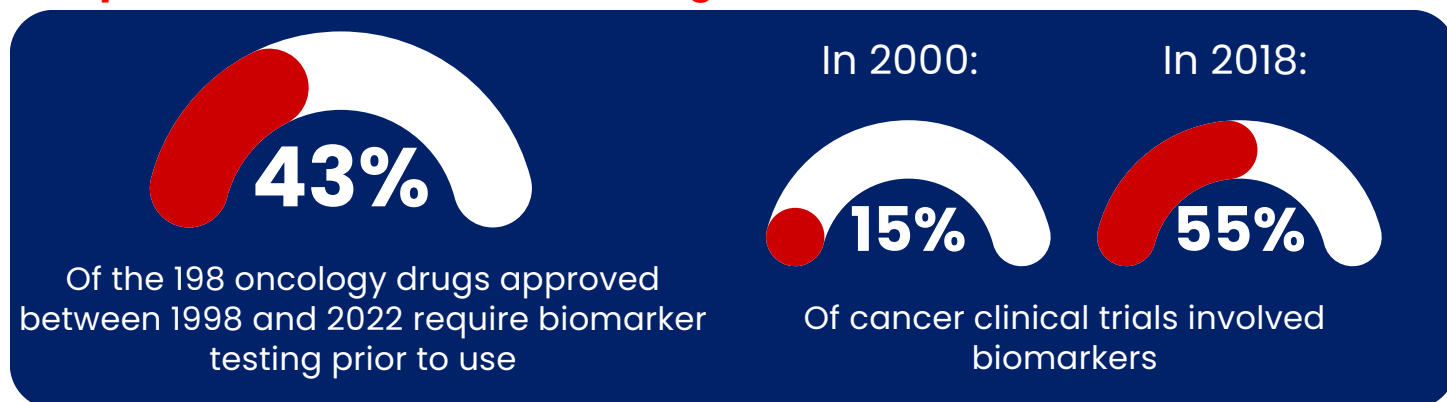
THE RIGHT TREATMENT AT THE RIGHT TIME

What is Biomarker Testing?

Biomarker testing is often used to help determine the best treatment for a patient.

- It is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker.
- Biomarker testing is an important step for accessing precision medicine, including targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.
- While most current applications of biomarker testing are in oncology and autoimmune disease, there is research underway to benefit patients with other conditions including heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other neurological conditions, rare disease, infectious disease and respiratory illness.

The Importance of Biomarker Testing



Biomarker Testing & Health Equity

Not all communities in Delaware are benefiting from the latest advancements in biomarker testing and precision medicine.

- Patients who are older, Black, uninsured or Medicaid-insured, are less likely to be tested for certain guideline-indicated biomarkers.
- There are lower rates of testing in community settings versus academic medical centers.

The Bottom Line

Access to appropriate biomarker testing may help to achieve:

- Better health outcomes
- Improved quality of life
- Reduced costs

Insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovation and advancement in treatment.

Without action, this could increase existing disparities in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, income and geography.

Twenty states have recently passed legislation to expand coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing.

